

F-9-R-12 Southwest Montana Fishery

Job I.⁶ Lake and Stream Survey.

The objectives are to determine the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of streams of importance to the recreational fishery of the project area. Since wild gamefish provide the bulk of the fishery in our streams, more emphasis will be placed on sampling the fish populations on certain waters to determine species composition, standing crops, and natural reproduction. Natural stream sections 300-500 feet in length will be censused by the electric shock method. Certain important streams will be shocked before and later in the fishing seasons to determine standing crops available to anglers. Five streams were sampled last year, four were in the upper Beaverhead drainage and one was in the Madison Valley. Fair to excellent gamefish populations were found in these streams. A heavily fished section of a stream in the Madison Valley was found to contain more catchable sized wild trout toward the end of the fishing season than before. More streams and stream sections will be added to the program as time warrents. Maps will be constructed of each stream section, and pertinent physical data and exact location will be recorded. Streams requiring special attention will also be surveyed.

Shocking will be done on larger rivers to determine species composition and year to year trends of game fish populations. Portions of the Madison and Beaverhead Rivers were sampled last year. Many gamefish were caught indicating a good fish population in these rivers.

This is a continuing project.

Shocking Madison & Beaverhead